

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Rudolf Siegesmund (Reg. No. 37,720) on 17 June 2008.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

17. (Currently Amended) A method for analyzing a packet using a firewall which creates a plurality of trust levels for a plurality of computer networks, the method comprising:

using a single router containing the firewall and a switch to service each of the plurality of computer networks by performing the steps of:

determining a destination of the packet from a packet header;

accessing a plurality of rules;

determining the appropriate rules to use to analyze the packet;

analyzing the packet using the rules;

determining if the packet is permitted under the rules;

responsive to a determination that the rules permit the packet, permitting the packet to pass to the destination only when the destination does not have a trust level higher than a trust level of a source of the packet;

responsive to a determination that the rules deny the packet, denying the packet;

wherein a trust level is a security level associated with a particular set of rules in the firewall; and

wherein the trust level reduces the time required for the firewall to analyze and either permit or deny the packet.

DETAILED ACTION

4. The Applicant's amendment of 26 February 2008 has been noted and made of record.
5. Claims 17-23 have been presented for examination.
6. Claims 1-16 and 24-32 have been cancelled as per Applicant's request.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments, see page 6, filed 26 February 2008, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections of claims 24-30 have been withdrawn since the claims have been cancelled.

8. Applicant's arguments, see pages 9 and 10, filed 26 February 2008, with respect to the prior art rejection of claim 20 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claim 20, and subsequently claims 21-23, has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 17-23 allowed.
10. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As noted above, the Examiner agrees with the Applicant's arguments regarding claim 20 that the prior art does not show determining if the packet is attempting to go to a destination with a higher trust level than a trust level of the source and taking action upon such a determination in an environment where a single firewall is controlling access to a plurality of virtual local area

networks. Similar claim language has been added to independent claim 17 to put it in condition for allowance also. Since the Examiner cannot find a teaching of the abovementioned limitation, nor any teaching, suggestion, or motivation that would render such a feature obvious, claims 17-23 are therefore novel and not obvious.

11. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian LaForgia whose telephone number is (571)272-3792. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7-5.

13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christian LaForgia/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2139

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